

of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 108^{th} congress, second session

Vol. 150

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2004

No. 60

Senate

The Senate met at 9:45 a.m. and was called to order by the President protempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Sovereign Master of the universe, Your kingdom cannot be shaken, for You are King of Kings and Lord of Lords. We praise You that more things are wrought by prayer than this world can imagine. Thank You for inviting us to ask and receive, to seek and find, and to knock for doors to open.

Forgive us when we have forfeited Your blessings because of our failure to ask. Forgive us also when we have lacked the humility to turn from evil and seek Your paths. Remind us that righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is an equal-opportunity destroyer. Remind us also that earnest prayer

unleashes Your power.

May this prayer that opens today's session be a springboard for intercession throughout this day. Help our law-makers to pause repeatedly during their challenging work to ask You for wisdom and guidance. Empower the members of their staffs and all who labor for liberty to harness prayer power continuously.

Do for this great Nation immeasurably more than we can ask or think, for the kingdom, the power, and the glory belong to You alone. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will begin a period of morning business for up to 1 hour. The first half of that time will be under the control of the majority leader or his designee, and the second half will be used by the other side of the aisle.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1637, the FSC/ETI JOBS bill. The debate until 12:30 will be equally divided between Senators GRASSLEY and BAU-

CUS or their designees.

During yesterday's session, three amendments were offered and debated. I thank Members for coming forward on Monday and allowing us to make some progress on the bill. This morning we expect a Republican alternative to the overtime amendment to be offered, and Members may have additional debate on that issue. Therefore, we anticipate that we will begin to schedule votes on FSC amendments this afternoon and, therefore, we do not expect any votes prior to the policy luncheons.

As a reminder, the Senate will recess from 12:30 to 2:15 for the weekly policy luncheons.

Finally, we hope to have cooperation on both sides as we try to finish the JOBS bill this week. With the rising level of WTO sanctions, it is long past time to complete this measure and, therefore, Members need to show restraint in offering their amendments. I thank everyone in advance for their cooperation as we try to finish this bill this week.

I reserve the remainder of the leader

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

FINISHING FSC/ETI

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I share the view just expressed by the distinguished assistant Republican leader with regard to finishing the FSC bill. It is my understanding they have probably twice as many amendments as we do. I know both sides are attempting to work down the list.

We have had some success in the last 48 hours with regard to our list, and we are hopeful our colleagues on the other side of the aisle will have an equal opportunity to demonstrate their success in reducing the number of amendments to be offered. We can finish this bill

easily this week.

Our amendments have all been vetted, and it is my understanding that every author of each amendment on our side has also agreed to a time limit. So we not only have short time limits and a reduced number of amendments from what was originally entered into with the time agreements and the unanimous consent agreement having to do with the consideration of this bill, but I think if we can continue to show that degree of cooperation, certainly we can finish the bill easily this week and perhaps move on to other business.

So I join with the Senator from Kentucky in expressing the hope we will continue to work to accomplish that this week.

TORTURE IN IRAQ

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I had not intended to speak to the appalling news in the last several days about the mistreatment of prisoners in Iraq. But I must say I come to the floor with grave concerns about the news, about the events, about the message it sends, about the extraordinary impact this violation of human rights can have on our efforts to succeed in that country, and about our appalling inability to explain how this happened.

While I certainly am not in a position today to speak with any clarity or

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

